

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7692

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AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 11880

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJ: TARAPUR: CANADIANS ON US RAPP HEAVY WATER

REF: (A) STATE 200384, (B) OTTAWA 3265

1. WE DISCUSSED REFTEL A WITH KRATZER BEFORE HE LEFT THIS MORNING. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE WE SHOULD URGE CANADIANS TO REMOVE ANY REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO US IN ANY MESSAGE THEY SEND TO INDIANS. AS IS CLEAR FROM KRATZER-SETHNA CONVERSATION (BOMBAY 2132) AND FROM EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD IN DELHI WITH SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS (INCLUDING FONSEC), INDIANS ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY HINT OF "COLLUSION" AMONG NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS AGAINST INDIA. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INCENSED AT WHAT THEY FEEL IS CANADIAN INSENSITIVITY IN DEALING WITH INDIA, AN INSENSITIVITY THEY POINTEDLY CONTRAST WITH US APPROACH TOWARD NUCLEAR PROBLEMS. DIRECT LINKAGE OF CANADIAN REQUEST FOR RETURN OF RAPP HEAVY WATER TO PROSPECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN US AND INDIA ON SUITABLE SAFEGUARDS FOR RAPP WOULD, WE THINK, DO POTENTIALLY IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO WHATEVER LIKELIHOOD THERE MAY BE OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT.

2. DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE FEASIBLE TO SUGGEST TO THE CANADIANS THAT THEY PROPOSE TO THE INDIANS EITHER A RETURN OF THE HEAVY WATER TO CANADA, OR ALTERNATIVELY A SUPPLE-

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MENTARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIAN AND IAEA WITH REGARD TO

(A) MAINTENANCE OF SAFEGUARDS ON RAPP AND (B) USE OF MATERIAL FROM RAPP ONLY FOR "MUTUALLY AGREED" PURPOSES (ANALOGOUS TO INDO-US TARAPUR LETTER EXCHANGE IN 1974). ONE OF THE KEY PROBLEMS IN DISCUSSING RAPP HEAVY WATER WITH INDIANS IS GOING TO BE THAT US HAS NO DIRECT LOCUS STANDI ON THIS ISSUE. ONLY CANADIANS AND IAEA HAVE SUCH A POSITION IN INDIAN EYES, AND GIVEN CURRENT TENSIONS BETWEEN GOC AND GOI, IAEA MAY BE BEST PLACE TO LOOK FOR SOME FACE-SAVING ESCAPE FROM THE DILEMMA.

3. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION HERE IN DELHI. BEFORE DOING SO, WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO HOW MUCH WE SHOULD TELL THE CANADIANS HERE ABOUT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIANS ON THE RAPP MKND CIRUS HEAVY WATER PROBLEMS. CANADIANS HERE JUST ASKED FOR BRIEFING ON KRATZER VISIT AND WE HAVE PUT ITEM OFF UNTIL MONDAY. REQUEST URGENT REPLY.
SAXBE

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